

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 01424 061516Z

42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 ARAE-00 ( ISO ) W

----- 090633

P 052218Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1876

UNCLAS CARACAS 1424

STATE PASS FAUGHT, ERS/USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: COUNTRY FINANCED TECHNICAL COOPERATION-AGRICULTURE-  
RAT CONTROL

REF: CARACAS 1314 AND FAUGHT/MCCONNELL TELCOMM OF FEB. 2

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO ACARIGUA AREA OF PORTUGESA STATE, AMBASSADOR AND AG ATTACHE WERE APPROACHED BY LOCAL FARM LEADERS REGARDING PROBLEM RICE PRODUCERS HAVING WITH SERIOUS INFESTATION OF RATS. EXACT DESCRIPTION OF RATS NOT AVAILABLE BUT THEY COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS "DUTCH" OR "NORWAY" RATS. THIS TYPE RAT, WHICH SUPPOSEDLY IS NOT NATIVE TO VENEZUELA, HAS ABILITY SWIM AND SEEMS HAVE NO NATURAL ENEMIES. IT FEEDS ON RICE IN THE FIELD AND HAS ALSO ATTACKED OTHER GRAINS AND OILSEEDS. RAT NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY THIS YEAR AND CROP LOSSES ARE SIGNIFICANT. AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE USG MEASURES TO ASSIST FARMERS.

2. THIS SUBJECT RAISED DURING MCCONNEL/HEILMAN MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MAC) OFFICIALS ON FEB. 2. MAC OFFICIALS READILY AGREED THAT THEY WOULD BEAR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATES WITH OBTAINING SERVICES OF U.S. EXPERT WHO COULD DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE, OR AT LEAST, CONTROL RATS. MAC CHARACTERIZES EXPERT NEEDED AS BIO-ECOLOGIST WITH EXTENSIVE FIELD EXPERIENCE IN CONTROL MEASURES IN RICE AREAS.

3. TIME REQUIRED FOR SUCH EXPERT TO REMAIN IN VENEZUELA DIFFICULT DETERMINE AT THIS POINT. MAC OFFICIALS SEEM THINK  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 01424 061516Z

WOULD BE NEEDED FOR PERHAPS AS LONG AS A YEAR. AGRICULTURAL

PRODUCERS THOUGHT 3 DAYS MIGHT BE ENOUGH. BELIEVE MAC THINKING MAY BE MOTIVATED BY FACT THEY SELF-CRITICAL DUE PAST INABILITY SUSTAIN RAT CONTROL PROGRAM LONG ENOUGH HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS AND MAY SEE U.S. EXPERT AS NOT ONLY PERSON WITH SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM BUT ONE WHO WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINED EFFORT. OUR FEELING IS THAT BEST APPROACH WOULD BE FIND REALLY OUTSTANDING PERSON WHO COULD SPEND UP TO ONE MONTH IN VENEZUELA HELPING MAC ANALYZE PROBLEM, MAP OUT PROGRAM AND IF NECESSARY ADVISE ON LONGER TERM U.S. TECHNICAL HELP. BEST OF ALL WORLDS WOULD BE HAVE TWO POTENTIAL CANDIDATES. ONE FOR UP TO 30 DAYS AND ONE FOR PERHAPS A YEAR. WE BELIEVE PRIORITY EFFORT SHOULD BE TO LOCATE EXPERT FOR SHORT PERIOD.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS PROBLEM OF SUCH ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE THAT GOV REQUEST SHOULD RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION AND REQUESTS AID/USDA MAKE EVERY EFFORT FIND, ON A PRIORITY BASIS, BEST QUALIFIED PERSON FOR THIS PROJECT. WHEN IDENTIFIED, PLEASE CABLE NAME, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, WORK EXPERIENCE, APPROXIMATE TIME OF AVAILABILITY AND ESTIMATED COST SO THAT THIS CAN BE PRESENTED TO MAC.  
SHLAUDEMAM

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PEST CONTROL, RICE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CARACA01424  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760046-0431  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760280/aaaacsfo.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CARACAS 1314  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** blochd0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by blochd0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COUNTRY FINANCED TECHNICAL COOPERATION-AGRICULTURE- RAT CONTROL  
**TAGS:** EAGR, VE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006